

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO DEA HQS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 0165

DEA HQS FOR CUSACK; EOIL

EMBASSY FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BR

SUBJECT: LIAISON WITH BRAZILIAN CUSTOMS (EC-7)

REF: CARACAS 0062

1. PRIOR TO SWEARING IN OF NEW GOVERNMENT IN MARCH 1974, EMBASSY HAD ACTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE PROGRAM INVOLVING BRAZILIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE. EIGHTEEN BRAZILIAN CUSTOMS OFFICERS RECEIVED NARCOTICS TRAINING IN THE US AND APPROXIMATELY 100 BRAZILIAN CUSTOMS OFFICERS ATTENDED US CUSTOMS IN-COUNTRY TRAINING COURSE IN RIO DE JANEIRO. CUSTOMS-TO-CUSTOMS AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED AND A CUSTOMS SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED BY US OFFICERS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF RECOMMENDING IMPROVEMENTS IN BRAZILIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE WITH REGARD TO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. PLANS WERE UNDER DISCUSSION FOR A NARCOTICS EQUIPMENT SURVEY AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SIX-WEEK NARCOTICS TRAINING COURSE AT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

2. AFTER MARCH 1974 THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND HIS SUBORDINATE STAFF WERE REPLACED. THESE LATTER

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INCLUDED SUCH IMPORTANT NARCOTICS PROGRAM CONTACTS

AS THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY, THE SECRETARY OF THE FEDERAL REVENUE, AND THE CHIEF OF THE TRAINING DIVISION. SHORTLY AFTER THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR EXPLAINED THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM TO THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. IN JULY 1974 THE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR AND THE DEA REPRESENTATIVE CALLED ON THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY IN RIO. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE NEW STAFF OF THE SECRETARIAT OF FEDERAL REVENUE.

3. THE SECRETARIAT OF FEDERAL REVENUE IS IN POSSESSION OF THE CUSTOMS SURVEY REPORT MENTIONED ABOVE AND IS STUDYING A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT PREPARED BY THE PREVIOUS STAFF OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ON RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE OF BRAZILIAN CUSTOMS. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE SECRETARIAT FROM TIME TO TIME BUT THEY ARE NOT YET PREPARED TO DISCUSS AN ACTIVE PROGRAM. WHILE RECENT CONTACTS HAVE BEEN PROMISING, NEVERTHELESS, WE MUST ADMIT THAT WE ARE BACK TO SQUARE ONE WITH BRAZILIAN CUSTOMS. IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE WE CAN GENERATE THE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM THAT WE HAD COME TO EXPECT FROM THE PREVIOUS STAFF OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.
JOHNSON

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